WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. (Currently Amended) An audio-video communication and answering system, said system comprising:

a) at least one wireless DVMS module having a proximity sensor, a video camera, a microphone, a speaker, an RF transmitter, and an RF receiver;

b) a computerized controller running a DVMS database application;

c) a wireless router, wherein the wireless router enables communication between the DVMS module and the computerized controller and, depending on the configuration of the system, the wireless router is in communication with other RF devices;

d) a recording means for recording video and audio communication that is transmitted to and from the DVMS module ;

e) a playing means for playing video and audio communication stored on the recording means; and

wherein the DVMS database application is a graphic user interface that enables a user to view images and streaming video from the camera, the coordination of multiple communication devices and user defined responses to prompts and events.

2. (Currently Amended) The audio-video communication and answering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the DVMS module has a display screen.

3. (previously presented) The audio-video communication and answering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the system is further comprised of an electronic connection to the public switching telephone network.

4. (Currently Amended) The audio-video communication and answering system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the DVMS module is further comprised of a keypad that is a touch screen or a keyboard.

5. (Currently Amended) The audio-video communication and answering system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the DVMS module is portable, has a locking mechanism, and an electrical receptacle for quickly attaching to a source of electricity.

6. (Currently Amended) The audio-video communication and answering system as claimed in claim 5, wherein the portable DVMS module has a portable energy source and is secured in a holster.

7. (Currently Amended) An audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 1, wherein the system is further comprised of a DVMS transceiver having a display screen, a microphone, a speaker, an RF transmitter, and an RF receiver.

8. (previously presented) An audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 7, wherein the computerized controller is a personal computer.

9. (Currently Amended) An audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 1, wherein the system is connected to a digital communication channel selected from the group consisting of DSL, satellite, cable, wireless, and a combination thereof, where the digital communication channel is in communication through the Internet, the Grid, satellite systems, and other information sharing systems.

10. (Currently Amended) The audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 1, wherein said system is further comprised of remote peripheral devices selected from the group consisting of cell phones, telephones, video-cell phones, computers, personal digital assistants, video-personal digital assistants, satellite telephones, transceivers, pagers, and other digital communication devices.

11. (previously presented) An audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 10, wherein the system is further comprised of an electronically actuated lock, which can be unlocked by the computerized controller.

12. (Original) An audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 11, wherein the system is further comprised of a voice-generation apparatus.

13. (Original) An audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 12, wherein the system is further comprised of a battery backup.

14. (Original) An audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 13, wherein the system is further comprised of a means to detect a loss in electrical power, and to send a message to at least one remote peripheral device that there has been a loss of electrical power.

15. (Currently Amended) The audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 14, wherein the DVMS database application has various levels of access to the database defined by privileges, wherein there is at least one declared occupant and an administrator, wherein the at least one declared occupant is a named individual who has privileges to actuate the lock by entering an access code into the DVMS module.

16. (currently amended) The audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 15, wherein the DVMS database application contains multiple control settings, wherein said control settings can include a telephone number that is to be called when there is a loss of power; a list of declared occupants; alias names of declared occupants; one or more telephone numbers and messages addresses for the declared occupant; emergency numbers that are to be automatically called, such as the police, the fire department, relatives, private security companies; passwords for access to the database; privilege levels of the declared occupants, access codes for actuating the lock; a

maximum number of wrong access code entries, before access is denied; either a default or a customized prompt for greeting a visitor; a prompt for requesting information from a visitor; a request instructing a visitor as to their choices in leaving a message, or contacting the declared occupant; an action that is to be initiated by the system based on the input by the visitor; a selection of background music or a video that is to be played at a particular time and date; a level of security that the system is to operate under; a hierarchy of storage of audio and video data; a location and number of backup devices and replications of the database; a number and network designation of the DVMS modules and DVMS transceivers; and a log of self-checks to confirm that all the components of the system are operational.

17. (Original) An audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 16, further comprising a voice recognition system.

18. (Currently Amended) The audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 7, wherein the DVMS transceiver can be used to generate text messaging.

19. (Original) The audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 8, wherein the personal computer has a video camera.

20. (Original) The audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 8, wherein the personal computer controls at least one additional storage device selected

from the group consisting of a CD-ROM R/W, a DVD R/W, a camera card, a tape drive, and a hard drive.

21. (Currently Amended) An audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 15, wherein a communication interface is further provided for communicating with an alarm at a remote location to signal that there has been a security breach of the lock.

22. (Original) The audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 12, wherein the voice generation apparatus is a voice synthesizer.

23. (Original) An audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 11, wherein the system is further comprised of a voice recognition module.

24. (Original) An audio-video communication and answering system according to claim 11, wherein the system is further comprised of an image recognition module.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for audio-video greeting and communicating with visitors at a business or residence, wherein said method utilizes at least one DVMS module having a proximity sensor, a video camera, a microphone, a speaker, an RF transmitter, and an RF receiver; a computerized controller, wherein the computerized controller has components for playing and recording video and audio media; an RF switching device

that enables communication between the DVMS module and the computerized controller; and a DVMS database application, said method comprising:

a) detecting the presence of a visitor via the proximity sensor of the DVMS module, where the DVMS module is mounted at or near an entrance, wherein upon detection the computerized controller is signaled that a visitor is present;

b) actuating the components for playing and recording video and audio media, and saving a recording in a location in the database with a beginning time-stamp;

c) broadcasting that a visitor is present;

d) issuing a greeting to the visitor, and asking the visitor to state a reason for their visit;

e) observing an image or video of the visitor displayed on the computerized controller;

f) if appropriate, issuing a prompt stating that occupant "y" is not available and asking the visitor if they wish to talk to occupant "y" or to leave a message;

g) if appropriate, initiating a call to occupant "y";

h) if appropriate, asking the visitor to begin his message and then optionally offering him a chance to review and approve his message;

i) attaching a message beginning with a timestamp and an occupant mailbox designation in the database;

j) time stamping the end of message;

k) if appropriate, issuing a closing statement;

m) when the visitor has finished his message and is out of the range of the proximity sensing means, stopping all recording and time stamping the end of the record, wherein the occupant "y" can, remotely or locally, selectively sort and view the entire recorded visit or just the message; and

n) if appropriate, if the proximity sensor indicates that there is still a visitor going to step (b).

26. (Currently Amended) A method for audio-video greeting and communicating with visitors of a business or residence according to claim 25, wherein said method further utilizes an electronically actuated lock, said method further comprising:

e.1) upon a visitor entering an access code into the DVMS module, checking the database to confirm that the access code is correct and actuating the lock, or if incorrect;

e.2) prompting the visitor to re-enter the code, or if assistance is needed entering a number that corresponds to one of the occupants;

e.3) if appropriate going to step (e.1); or going to step (f).

27. (Currently Amended) A method for audio-video greeting and communicating with visitors of a business or residence according to claim 26, said method further comprising:

    e.4) upon entrance of the visitor entering an access code into the DVMS module that corresponds to the access code assigned to a declared occupant, notifying a specified occupant that the declared occupant has now entered the premises the business or residence.

28. (Currently Amended) A method for audio-video greeting and communicating with visitors of a business or residence according to claim 26, wherein the specified occupant can remotely monitor or review the visitor entering the access code.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for audio-video greeting and communicating with visitors of a business or residence according to claim 26, wherein a maximum number of wrong entries of the access code automatically actuates a call to the specified occupant, and/or shuts down access to the premises.

30. (Currently Amended) The audio-video communication and answering system according to claim ~~1~~ 10, wherein the camera(s) can be remotely manually actuated and the streaming video can be viewed, recorded video can be viewed, and recorded and streaming video can be viewed using the remote peripheral device.